

**INTERLIBRARY COOPERATION GRANT
APPLICATION FOR FY2009**

DUE: April 1, 2008

1. Project Name: Alaska Spirit of Reading
2. Library Name: Alaska Association of School Librarians
3. Address: c/o Blatchley Middle School, 601 HPR, Sitka, AK 99835
4. Contact Person: Kari Sagel 5. Phone No: 966-1411
6. Fax No: 907-966-1460 7. E-mail: sagelk@mail.ssd.k12.ak.us
8. Warrant Mailing Address: Janet Madsen, AkASL Treasurer
P.O. Box 750137
Fairbanks, AK 99775

9. In the section below, check any priorities that apply and double-check the most important one.

- ☒ Develop public and private partnerships with other agencies and community based organizations
- ☒ Target library services to individuals of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, and to individuals with limited functional literacy or information skills
- ☒ Target library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children through age 17 from families with incomes below the poverty line

10. Budget Summary for this Project:		Local Funds to be Spent on Grant Project	AkASL Funds to be Spent on Grant Project	Grant Funds Requested for Project	Total Project Budget
a.	Personnel				
	1. Salaries and Wages				
	2. Benefits				
b.	Collection (Library Materials)				
	1. Books			2500.00	2500.00
	2. Subscriptions				
	3. Audiovisuals		625.00		625.00
	4. Electronic Materials				
	5. Other Materials				
c.	Other Expenditures				
	1. Building Operations				
	2. Furniture & Equipment				
	3. Travel			2995.00	2995.00
	4. Supplies			945.00	945.00
	5. Services	6000.00	300.00	6500.00	12800.00
	6. Other Expenditures		523.75		523.75
d.	In – Kind Donations	770.00			770.00
		6770.00	1448.75	12940.00	21158.75
e.	Total				

11. In FY2008, what was the total amount your agency expended for **Library Services**? NA
12. Did your library receive a Universal Service Discount (E-Rate) for FY2008? NA
Has your library applied for the Universal Service Discount (E-Rate) for FY2008? NA
Does your library have a current approved E-Rate Technology Plan in place? NA
Does your library have a CIPA-compliant Internet Safety Policy in place? NA

13. **Grant Proposal: On individual pages attached to this grant application, write your grant proposal. This section MUST include the following elements:**

STATEMENT OF NEED:

Readership is in decline across the nation. In the executive summary to their report "To Read or Not to Read," the National Endowment for the Arts concludes, "Americans are spending less time reading. Reading comprehension skills are eroding. These declines have serious civic, cultural, and economic implications."

In response to this decline in reading, the NEA has created The Big Read, "...designed to restore reading to the center of American culture by providing citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities." <http://www.nea.gov/news/news07/TRNR.html>

Librarians and educators know that what is a problem in America hits us doubly hard here in Alaska. We are a state of remote, underserved rural communities. Students struggle with limited English proficiency. Access to books, libraries, and national programs is limited.

We'd like to do The Big Read Alaskan style and focus on children and youth. The elements of The Big Read we'd like to retain are the idea of a common book and a community discussion. The Alaskan style comes in with the idea of choosing a book with an Alaska theme with appeal to both boys and girls, focusing on service to underserved communities, and inspiring readers and potential readers through interaction with an author.

The quotations below say it better than our grant application can!

"By recounting his own struggles to become a writer, author Ben Mikaelson empowers students to realize their own potential. Ben teaches us that we are all authors, not only of words on a page but also of our lives, our ultimate story."

Author Ben Mikaelson at http://www.benmikaelsen.com/dvd_becoming.html

"All of the data suggest how powerfully reading transforms the lives of individuals - whatever their social circumstances. Regular reading not only boosts the likelihood of an individual's academic and economic success - facts that are not especially surprising-but it also seems to awaken a person's social and civic sense. Reading correlates with almost every measurement of positive personal and social behavior surveyed. It is reassuring, though hardly amazing, that readers attend more concerts and theater than non-readers, but it is surprising that they exercise more and play more sports - no matter what their educational level. The cold statistics confirm something that most readers know but have been reluctant to declare as fact - books change lives for the better."

"To Read or Not to Read" a report by the National Endowment for the Arts

GOAL(S) OF THE GRANT PROJECT:

The Alaska Association of School Libraries (AkASL) will pilot a statewide book discussion in a bag program for school libraries/schools, with a goal of evaluating the grant for its sustainability as a yearly or every-other-year project administered by the AkASL. The book we have tentatively selected is "Touching Spirit Bear" by author Ben Mikaelson.

Our goal is book discussion participation by at least five hundred students, with at least sixty percent of those coming from rural and underserved areas of the state.

We plan to arrange author visits, with Ben Mikaelson traveling to schools in Anchorage, surrounding areas, southeast Alaska, and/or interacting with students via audio- or videoconferencing. The goal of interacting is to help students connect to the written word.

We plan at least one statewide media event for grant participants. Currently our goal is a culminating activity, a statewide book discussion via television, radio, or audio conference with participation by students and facilitators from across Alaska.

We will provide book discussion resources to librarians, teachers, and other facilitators, with the goal of enabling local sites to easily plan book discussion activities.

A final goal is to promote reading. We will conduct a publicity contest challenging participating book discussion groups to create, share, and enter READ posters, PSAs, newsletter articles, etc.

ACTIVITIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

We have already begun the project! Our first steps have, of course, been collecting ordering information and making contacts. We have spoken via phone with author Ben Mikaelson and he is keen to participate in the project.

The Sitka librarians will facilitate the project for the Alaska Association of School Librarians. We will order twenty-five canvas book discussion bags with the AkASL logo, 250 copies of "Touching Spirit Bear," 25 traveling journals, and 25 prepaid flat-rate mailing boxes.

We will contract for someone to create the other materials making up the book discussion bags: discussion guides, sample publicity, journal prompts, and further recommended reading.

We will solicit participation in the program through Puffin articles, postcards, phone calls, and email, developing a list of initial and subsequent participants. We will target all of Alaska's school libraries. We will develop a schedule for rotation of the book bags to participating schools/libraries.

The books discussion bags will fit in prepaid flat-rate mailing boxes. Subsequent mailings will be the responsibility of the school/library receiving the bag. The first books will be disseminated via mail or at the summer leadership academy. The Sitka school librarians will monitor participation and the schedule of mailings.

We will maintain a website/blog to celebrate the project. A few ideas we have had are to map the travels of the book bags, include journal entries, allow discussion groups to blog, and to conduct an author forum. Additionally, all book discussion bag resources will be available online.

Participating schools/libraries will solicit participants, read the books, conduct discussions and activities, and share information through the official website/blog. Students will be encouraged to write journal entries, which will travel with the bag to its next destination.

We will continue our discussions with Ben Mikaelson. Currently we would like to have Mr. Mikaelson visit schools in Anchorage, the surrounding area, and at least Sitka in the southeast. We have begun planning and making initial contacts to plan a culminating activity in which Mr. Mikaelson would participate in a

statewide book discussion, ideally on public television or radio. While in Sitka, Mr. Mikaelson would appear on local radio, perhaps as a guest on "The Library Show."

We propose to present at the AkLA conference in Kodiak. Our topic and purpose will depend on the schedule of author visits and media programming. Our ideas include: a descriptive/evaluative session for librarians who have participated in the project, a sharing of book discussion and activity ideas, a model book discussion activity, a last change how-to session for those still wishing to participate, or a planning session for the televised book discussion.

After evaluating the project as described below, we will make a recommendation to the AkASL executive board about whether we think this can be a sustainable project.

A TIME LINE FOR THE PROJECT:

May	Develop list of initial schools/libraries to participate in book discussions.
July 1	Order books, canvas bags with AkASL logo, traveling journals, mailing boxes.
July 1	Contract with Ben Mikaelson to visit Alaska schools.
July-Sept	Schedule school visits.
July 31	Develop book discussion guides, sample journal prompts, and publicity samples.
August	Create project website/blog. Make materials available online.
Aug/Sept	Contact more schools/libraries to solicit participation. Develop schedule for mailing.
Aug/Sept	Distribute "Touching Spirit Bear" book discussion bags to initial school libraries.
Sept-May	Monitor participation and mailing, maintain website/blog.
Mid-March	Present at conference: poster session, regular session, or working session.
April 15	Deadline for publicity contest
?	Hold school visits/media participation by Ben Mikaelson: first few weeks of December, March 2-13, or April 20-May 1.
?	Hold statewide book discussion on ARCS or APRN, announce winner of publicity contest.
May	Evaluate project.

JUSTIFICATION OF ALL BUDGET LINE ITEMS:

Books (Grant)

We will purchase 250 paperback copies of "Touching Spirit Bear" at a cost of \$7.00 each. 200 of these books will be used for 20 initial book bags. 50 will be reserved to replace lost books and/or create additional book discussion bags. We will purchase 60 copies of the hardbound "Ghost of Spirit Bear" at \$12.50 apiece. These will be presented to libraries/schools that have participated successfully in the grant program. They will also be used as rewards for the publicity contest.

Audiovisuals (AkASL)

Each book bag will include a copy of one of Ben Mikaelson's DVDs. The DVDs focus on stories, reading, telling and writing them. We will purchase 25 copies at \$25.00 apiece.

Travel (Grant)

We have budgeted \$1700.00 for the authors travel to Anchorage and southeast Alaska. We plan for seven nights lodging at \$125.00 per night for a total of \$875.00. We will provide a \$60.00 per diem for seven days for a total of \$420.00.

Supplies (Services)

We will purchase 25 canvas bags at \$18.00 a bag with a \$45.00 setup fee for a total of \$495.00. 25 journals at \$10.00 apiece will travel with the bags. The total cost will be \$250.00. The remaining \$200.00 is for supplies cost (paper, CD-R) for book discussion guides and sample publicity.

Services (Participants)

We will pay for a portion of Ben Mikaelson's fees by charging each school from \$500.00 to \$750.00 for a visit. We will work with Ann Morgester to solicit interested schools. We plan to defray \$6000.00 of the author fees in this way.

Services (AkASL)

AkASL will provide a \$300.00 stipend for the development of discussion guides, sample publicity, a further reading bibliography and other materials and activities related to creating the book bags/website.

Services (Grant)

Ben Mikaelson charges \$2500 per day for school visits and appearances. We would like him to spend three days in Anchorage and the surrounding areas and two days in southeast Alaska. We also would like him to appear on the statewide media event we are arranging. We expect that we will be able to negotiate an additional day or two and some audio- and video-conferencing from his work/home in Montana. We are asking for the grant to pay for the portion not covered by charging participating schools.

Other (AkASL)

AkASL will pay \$323.75 for purchasing pre-paid flat-rate mailing boxes for distributing the books to initial sites. An additional \$200.00 will be available for promotional mailing.

In-Kind

Participating sites will pay to forward books to subsequent sites. We anticipate sixty mailings at \$12.95 per mailing for a total of \$777.00.

AN EVALUATION PLAN.

We will keep track of the total number of students who participate: the number who read the book, the number who participate in a book discussion, and the number who participate in an author visit or media event. Our goal is book discussion participation by at least five hundred students, with at least sixty percent of those coming from rural and underserved areas of the state.

We will collect positive statements about reading/books from the student journals traveling in each book discussion bag. With permission, some of these will be posted on the website/blog.

We will keep track of the number of visitors to the grant website/blog.

Currently our goal is a culminating activity, a statewide book discussion via television, radio, or audio conference with participation by students and facilitators from across Alaska. We will be very happy if we accomplish this.

Statistics from the first year will serve as a baseline for subsequent years.

We welcome any suggestions or help from the Alaska State Library in developing outcome-based assessments for this project. We would consider assessment focusing on students, facilitators, or participants in the culminating event.

CONTINUATION PLAN:

After evaluating the project as described below, we will make a recommendation to the AkASL executive board about whether to adopt this program.

We are still discussing how to share the remaining "Touching Spirit Bear" books. One idea was to donate them to school libraries. Another was to establish a partnership with another state school library association and send the books and program on to them. We will research a possible exchange program by which we could switch books and programs.

DISSEMINATION PLAN:

We will solicit participation in the program through Puffin articles, postcards, phone calls, and email. We will look at AkASL membership lists and Department of Education and Early Development information.

We will maintain a website/blog to celebrate the project. A few ideas we have had are to map the travels of the book bags, include journal entries, allow discussion groups to blog, and to conduct an author forum. Additionally, all book discussion resources will be available online.

We plan at least one statewide media event for grant participants. Currently our goal is a culminating activity, a statewide book discussion via television, radio, or audio conference with participation by students and facilitators from across Alaska.

We will conduct a publicity contest challenging participating book discussion groups to create, share, and enter READ posters, PSAs, newsletter articles, local radio programming etc.

We propose to present at the AkLA conference in Kodiak. Our ideas include: a descriptive/evaluative session for librarians who have participated in the project, a sharing of book discussion and activity ideas, a model book discussion activity, a last change how-to session for those still wishing to participate, or a planning session for the televised book discussion.

We will write and submit an article for submission in a regional or national journal focusing on school libraries or reading. We will investigate the possibility of presenting at a regional or national conference.

SUPPORT FROM COOPERATING LIBRARIES:

I have contacted Ann Morgester, the library curriculum director for the Anchorage school district, and she has agreed to work with us to arrange school visits!

Note: This grant application is a legal document committing your library to a specific course of action. This application MUST have two signatures from two different people.

For the Library:

For the Legal Entity:

Print or Type Name

Print or Type Name

Signature

Signature

Title

Date

Title

Date

Questions? Contact Patience Frederiksen 269-6566 or 800-776-6566

Return to: Alaska State Library, 344 West 3rd Avenue, Suite 125, Anchorage, AK 99501